



# **South Tyneside Arts Studio Information Pack**

South Tyneside Arts Studio Ltd.  
Incorporated in England Under No: 3106834  
Registered Charity No: 1052496

WELLCOME  
LIBRARY

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## All about... South Tyneside Arts Studio

### ***Studio Facilities***

STAS has two general studio workshops, available for members to use on a drop-in basis. They are large enough to hold around fifteen to twenty people. We also have a print room, darkroom, digital media room and a small general space available for members use. The second workshop is only currently available on Tuesdays, (when the main workshop is used for a women only session), or for specific projects and meetings.

STAS also houses five private studios, rented by professional artists who also run the general workshop sessions in the main workshop on the ground floor.

The Studio currently has around 260 members. Daily visits are usually between 20 and 35 people and around 75 to 95 different people use the Studio on a weekly basis.

### ***Workshop sessions***

The Studio breaks its number of workshops into 'sessions' (either mornings or afternoons) so our core activity is 16 sessions per week. The general workshop is open from 10am - 5pm Monday to Friday. The basement workshop is open from 10am - 5pm on Tuesdays and we also run a satellite project four days per week, 10am - 4pm in the Hedley Sunday School in Hebburn on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays.

On top of this, for thirty weeks each year, the Workers Education Authority (WEA) fund two sessions per week, which our artists run, in printmaking and oil painting. These courses run in the evenings and are open to Studio members and non-members.

In addition to the core activities and WEA sessions, we are currently running a photography group on Thursday afternoons and a digital media group on Monday afternoons. The digital media group has been primarily set up to design and print the local mental health community newsletter, however, members can follow their own digital media projects alongside the production of the newsletter. Funding secured through the Health Living Centre Bid has allowed us to offer specialist session in Printmaking and Sculpture

We also offer projects and workshops to other organisations, and have worked most recently with the Carers Association of South Tyneside and Northumbria Sight Service. These projects can take place either at the Studio or in organisation's own premises.

STAS members follow their own ideas and artistic journeys. Professional artists are on duty and available to work with and support members with whatever they choose to do. The studio is open purely on a drop-in basis so there is never a specific time that members can access the Studio, nor is

anyone 'forced' to attend. Some members come in every day, some specific day(s) each week and others come and go whenever they feel like it. The activities on offer include painting (all types), drawing, printmaking, sculpture, photography, digital media and many craft activities like silk painting, papier maché etc.

We run an NCFE course in Practical Craft Skills, equivalent to NVQ levels one and two. Members can do the courses if they wish, and at their own pace. There are no specific classes to attend so members choose when they put time into the course and what work they put forward for the course, and can take breaks from it as they wish.

External projects are usually fairly structured. Organisations may have a specific idea or medium in mind, or the artist will agree at the start of the sessions the approach the group want to use and the themes for the finished work.

### ***What does STAS membership entitle you to?***

1. Access 10am - 5pm, Monday to Friday each week, and Hebburn satellite project Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 10am - 4pm.
2. Free basic materials to work with, and access to cheap materials (e.g. silk, lino, etching materials).
3. Access to professional artist support and teaching.
4. Inexpensive mounting and framing of art work by the Studio Technician.
5. Exhibitions in the Studio gallery and elsewhere.
6. Trips to galleries and drawing/painting trips during the summer months.
7. Information on current local and national exhibitions.
8. Information on current local further and higher education courses.
9. A range of books and art magazines.
10. Loan of camera equipment and training in their use.
11. Access to computers and digital camera and training in their use.
12. Opportunities to get involved in specific Studio projects.
13. Access to voluntary artists, usually offering specific workshops e.g. sculpture, photography etc..
14. Cheap colour and black and white photocopying.

### ***Who is STAS for?***

We have a priority free service to people living in the community with established mental health needs; we also work closely with Carers. The Studio is open to the whole community; the only group we do not work with is children.

### ***Studio Gallery***

We usually hold around 10-12 exhibitions a year. Members can request an exhibition, either one person shows or in groups and a programme is created at the start of each year. The future aim is for interested members to decide and set up the exhibitions, through a steering group, supported by Studio staff. We usually show work by Studio members, however every year we try to show at least one or two exhibitions by outside groups or individual artists.



We are committed to showing members work outside of the Studio as well. Recently we have exhibited in France and London, and in December 2002 will hold a major exhibition at the Customs House in South Shields, the local arts centre. In 2000, one member had work in an exhibition in Munich, Germany, and many members have had shows in local libraries and other venues around the North-East.

### ***The Studio's role in the mental health and wider communities***

One of the major aspects to the Studios policy is that we are open to the whole community. We have many members who have never knowingly been in direct contact with mental health issues and begin to understand the issues around mental health as a direct result of attending the Studio. Within the Studio workshop, no one is labelled in any way. The only reference to anyone's membership status is within the office, so we know whether people pay for materials, trips etc.. We also need this information for statistical evidence for funders monitoring and for our own monitoring of Studio usage.

The community as a whole has benefited in several ways from the Studio's presence locally. It provides an educative service, as outlined above. Also, access to participatory visual arts activities is vastly improved, and people who have not done any art work ever, or since school, find they have a talent and enjoy learning new skills. The low cost of membership (free to priority members, £3 per year for people on benefits and £15 a year for anyone with an income) and the low cost or free materials means that actively taking part in creating art is not an elitist activity. It is affordable and enjoyable. Many people who attend the Studio have never been to a gallery - we recently ran a trip to the Tate Modern in London which opened many peoples eyes, not only to the concept of being in an 'elitist' environment and being comfortable with that! But also to the work of a wide range of artists across the world and across time.

Several of our members have chosen to further their art education by attending college - doing part time or full-time courses and one member is in his second year of a Fine Art degree at University of Northumbria. As a direct result of attending the Studio, people are finding their way back into education at all levels - people who may never have contemplated formal education before.

These are all quantifiable benefits to the community. Other benefits, harder to quantify must include lower admissions to hospital for people using mental health services, less need for crisis intervention, higher levels of self esteem and confidence in individuals, improved social skills in some people, increased skill base for all, fewer people living in isolation and generally happier, more balanced people.



### ***Studio Artists***

All the artists who facilitate sessions for us are self-employed, and provide a service to us on a sub-contracted basis. This is very important to us as the artists can bring skills and experience gained from working on other projects into the Studio. There are currently seven artists running sessions - four of whom also rent private studios in the building. Their backgrounds are all in the arts; all are practising artists who have done art-based degrees (usually Fine Art but also Graphics). Most have postgraduate MA's also. The management staff are generally also practising artists, with arts degrees. No one at the Studio has any 'professional' mental health qualifications. This is because the Studio is an Arts project with a priority service for people living with mental health difficulties, not a mental health project using art as a therapeutic vehicle.

We do have volunteers and work experience placements also, but all sessions are run by artists who are paid fees.

### ***What makes STAS special?***

We make participatory visual arts accessible and available for anyone who lives in the Borough of South Tyneside, in a safe and supportive environment, with a priority service for people living in the community with established mental health needs.

It is a distinctive project because integration is the key to our work. Opening up the Studio to everyone, but also ensuring that our priority groups of members needs are met sensitively and appropriately, establishes an accessible, enjoyable and challenging environment for all. No one is forced to attend the Studio so everyone who walks through the door does so because they want to make art. Their own motivation is the key to improved self-esteem and confidence.

### ***The wider context***

STAS is a local organisation for local people. However, part of the role of the Project Director is to develop our national (and occasionally) international 'profile' as a distinctive project, which could be a model for others. We are represented on the national steering committee for 'i am (inspired arts movement) - the national forum for the arts in mental health'. i am has held two live events celebrating the work in arts and mental health in this country, has developed a directory of individuals and groups working in the field, and has represented the sector at international symposia and conferences.

Locally, the Studio is represented on the Local Implementation Team for the National Service Framework for Mental Health. The team has representatives from the local mental health community including service users, voluntary and statutory sector services, and ensures that local mental health services are improved, flexible and reflect the needs of the local community.

### ***Company status***

South Tyneside Arts Studio is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It is led by a voluntary Board of Directors and Trustees, which meet regularly. The Board of Directors includes three Member Representatives.

### ***Project Development***

The Studio has significant plans for improving and developing the service we offer to residents of South Tyneside. The most urgent need is to make the Studio building accessible to anyone who wishes to attend.

We have worked with Burdus Access Management who created an Access Audit for us, and more recently we engaged an architect to produce plans for an extended and accessible building. Planning permission has now been granted; the next step is to pursue resources to ensure the plans become a reality. The plans include full access to the whole building, and, in addition to the general workshop spaces, dedicated studios in digital media, photography, printmaking and sculpture will be available to our current and potential members.

Alongside the physical improvements, we are pursuing opportunities to increase the activities that we provide, to include dedicated specialist media sessions every week. We also aim to increase the number of days per week we can open the Hebburn satellite Studio, and provide a regular weekly art session in the psychiatric unit at South Tyneside General Hospital.

All these development plans have been arrived at following extensive consultation with stakeholders – particularly, and most importantly with Studio Members.



## ***Aims and Objectives of the Organisation***

### ***Aim***

"To provide the environment and resources that enable people from South Tyneside, both with and without established mental health needs, to participate in creative and artistic activities where mutual creativity can foster personal growth"

### ***Objectives***

- To create and maintain a welcoming, warm, relaxed and safe place for members art-making, in an integrated environment attractive to people living in South Tyneside.
- To create and maintain an environment of respect and support where members can improve their confidence, self-reliance, self-esteem and their perceived sense of well being.
- To provide opportunities for the development of new skills to members and more formal educational and training opportunities.
- To provide opportunities for people to socialise and support each other, make contacts and friends.
- To provide opportunities for people to be independent.
- To provide a space where members can challenge and motivate themselves.
- To promote positive images of mental health through our practice, publicity, exhibitions and events.
- To work with organisations and agencies outside the Studio offering our expertise, to promote and extend the work of the Studio and to promote understanding of mental health issues.
- To actively seek partnerships with other voluntary and statutory sector organisations, to support the continual improvement of mental health services locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- To create employment opportunities and private studio spaces for local professional artists.











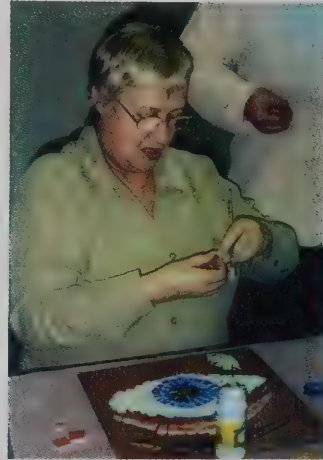






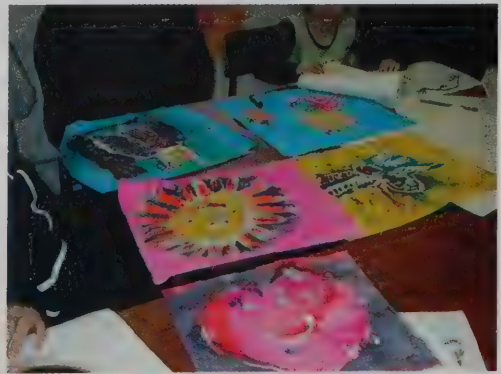
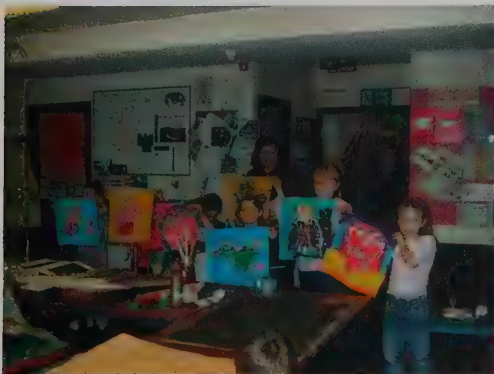
### **Carers Association in South Tyneside (CAST)**

Over the last few years the Studio has developed a strong partnership with The Carers Association in South Tyneside, and we have worked together on a number of projects producing celebratory banners and costumes and floats for the local summer parade. Throughout 2001, the Carers were able to access workshops using silkscreen, etching, stained glass and mosaic, funded by a Regional Arts Lottery Grant. Further funding has enabled the project to continue throughout 2002, with workshops in sculpture, pinhole photography, digital media and experimental drawing.



Exhibitions of the work produced during 2001 have taken place, particularly at the Customs House, South Shields, and the Arts Studio gallery. In June a selection of the work was included in the 'Studio Sale' Exhibition at ING Bank, London, Sunderland Arts Studio and a final exhibition at the South Tyneside Arts Studio Gallery.

In 2003 the studio ran a series of session with the Young Carers, printmaking, pinhole photography, batik and stain glass.



The key aim of this work is to reduce the social isolation experienced by Carers, as well as providing 'time-out' from their caring roles.

### **Erase Exclusion Calendar Project**

In 2001 the studio worked in partnership with Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Promotion Service to create a Calendar of artwork by mental health service users.

The purpose of the project was to raise awareness of employers to the discrimination and prejudice that mental health service users experience when pursuing/applying for employment, or within the employment setting, and to engender a sense of personal achievement, self-confidence and self-respect amongst the mental health service users who contributed artwork to the project.

Due to the success of the calendar, a further project has been developed, and was launched on World Mental Health Day 2002. The calendar has been developed as 'stand alone' poster presentations, displayed in a number of local venues including libraries, hospitals and GP surgeries. Two of the calendar images are currently being displayed on local buses.

The studio is working with Health Promotion to extend the Erase Exclusion Project further.

### **Bede Day Unit**

Between 1996 and 2001 we worked in partnership with the local hospital, to provide art sessions once a week within the psychiatric day unit. These sessions were originally facilitated by a volunteer artist, until funding was ring-fenced by both the Studio and the hospital. More recently, these sessions were resourced by the Workers Education Association.

We are currently pursuing funding for these sessions to become part of our core activities on a long-term basis. The sessions act as a bridge between the hospital and the community, and many individuals have, once discharged, felt immediately comfortable attending the Studio.

We have also, with funding through Common Knowledge (the Tyne and Wear Health Action Zone's arts and health project), worked within the inpatient department, working with individuals to create a range of artworks which were included in a book called 'Open Art Surgery'.

We are hoping that funding can be secured to continue with the sessions at the Bede Wing.

### **Northumbria Sight Service (NSS)**

STAS provided art workshops for a local group of people with vision impairment, working in sculpture techniques including chicken wire and plaster bandage.



## **Studio Stories**

Studio Members worked with a digital artist over a period of weeks to create digital art works using the Studios computers, alongside digital cameras and scanners.

Many Members had used digital media, but generally only to record their other artwork. The aim of this project was to introduce members to the possibilities of using digital media as an arts medium in its own right.

Following on from this project, we have, with funding through the local statutory agencies, been able to provide a digital media session once a week for members to continue to use the skills they learnt through Studio Stories.

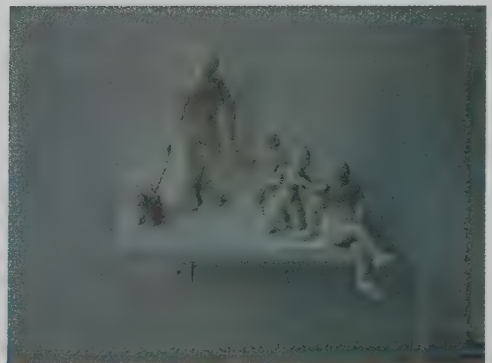
As the Studio pursues major development plans to expand and improve the building, Studio Stories will continue, to creatively record and influence the development and building process.

## **Customs House**

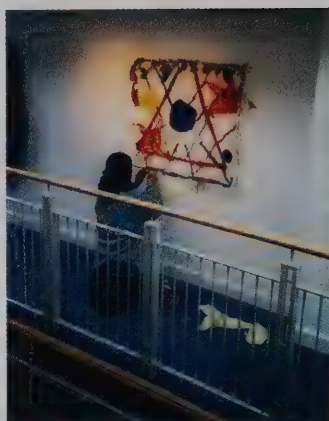
Over the last year, Studio Members have been invited to take part in short term projects with artists to create site-specific exhibitions in the Upper Fusion Gallery at the Customs House. They have also been invited to attend exhibitions in the main gallery, meet exhibiting artists and find out from them how and why they make artwork.

The aim of this project, as well as to give Studio Members additional art-making opportunities, has been to enable STAS members to feel comfortable visiting and making use of the Customs House.

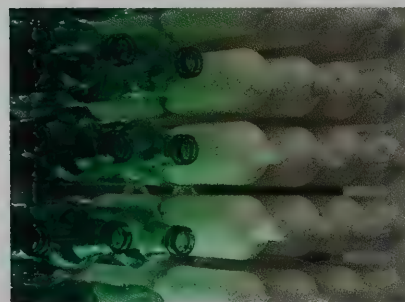
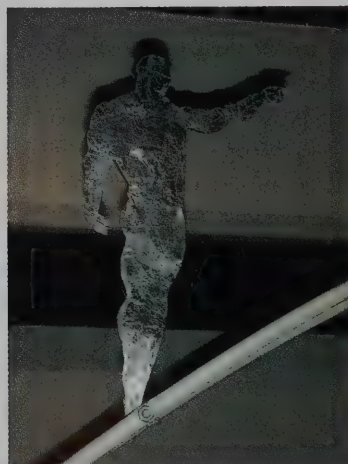
## ***Project with Artist Simon Jones.***



*Project with Artist Katherine Jiggins*



The project ended with a third exhibition "Shadow and Light" in the Upper Fusion Space, funded through Single Regeneration Budget, and supported by Studio Artists





## Studio Trips

Each year the studio fundraises for studio trips, members are asked each year to give ideas of where they would like to visit.

Studio Trips are a very important part of the membership at the studio; they allow members to enjoy a fully supported social and educational experience.

Over the past few years the studio has arranged trips to:

London Tate Modern

Liverpool Tate

Finchale Priory

Bradford Film & Photography Museum

Saltsmill Bradford

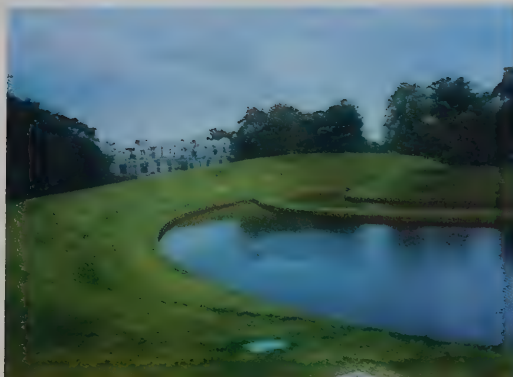
Carlisle

Local Art Tour

Edinburgh – Museum of Modern Art & National Portrait Museum

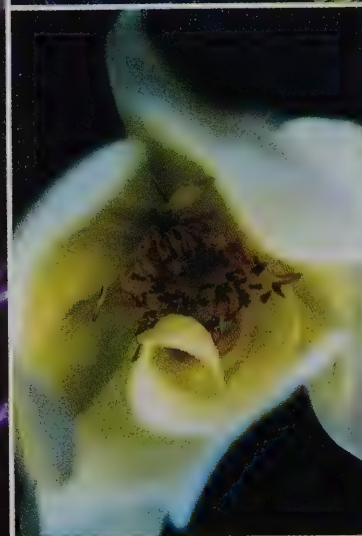
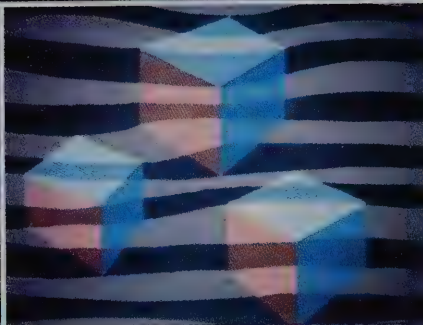
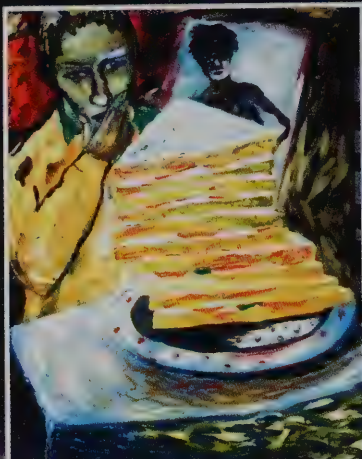
BALTIC

Oriental Museum – Durham



# REFLECTIONS

ISSUE 2 - AUTUMN 2001



POSITIVE IMAGES OF USER ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



South Tyneside Arts Studio is an open access community arts studio available to all living in South Tyneside. They provide the environment and resources that enable people, both with and without established mental health needs, to participate in creative and artistic activities where mutual creativity can foster personal growth.

The Studio is open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. For further information, please contact Anthea Milton or Clare Gee on 0191 454 4004, or visit their website at [ds.dial.pipex.com/stas](http://ds.dial.pipex.com/stas)

The images on the following pages have been created for a calendar, in partnership with Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Promotion, to raise awareness of stigma and discrimination in the workplace surrounding mental health. Each of the artists can be contacted on the Studio number.

South Tyneside Arts Studio are our featured project in this issue.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE ARTS STUDIO: MEMBERS SPEAK

The Arts Studio has 2 groups of members:- Community members and Priority members. The following comes from a discussion amongst the Priority members. They are defined as, 'People living with established mental health needs who are, or have been, users of mental health services.'

We are from a group of priority members who met together to talk about our experiences of using the Studio, so that we could help you to understand how it has been useful for us. We have put together our words for you.

We had heard about the Studio from different sources:

- *through staff at the Bede wing [local hospital psychiatric services] and through the outreach session the Studio runs there every Friday morning,*



- *from Community Psychiatric Nurses and Social Workers,*
- *from Mental Health Matters and Mental Health In South Tyneside,*
- *some people had been taken on a 'tour' of places they could use and found the Studio the only attractive one,*
- *others heard about the Studio from word of mouth.*

Generally we were nervous when we first visited the Studio, in fact people's feelings ranged from apprehensive to terrified!

But we liked the people and the atmosphere. It was non-judgemental and we were relaxed because we were not forced to paint. We could have a cup of tea or coffee and look around. A lot of people expect it to be like art was at school and it isn't.

We talked a bit about our feelings when we first arrived, "I was locked up in myself", was a typical comment. So was, "I thought I could not draw or paint" But that did not last long. Soon we generally began to find the Studio useful:-

- *"Its my safe place"*
- *"Once I had actually finished and printed a photograph it was like a new life for me"*

- *"I felt more confident about myself, about being myself not what I am supposed to be"*
- *"You put your feelings into writing or painting or photography - instead of getting chewed up inside"*
- *"Its good when the artists say, 'try this'"*
- *"Makes you use your brain"*
- *"Sometimes I can't be bothered but I usually get over that quicker now"*



**Claire Jenkins**

Working at the art studio is very important to me.  
Painting shows me how nice things can look in still life



**Dave Barras**

This painting shows the hustle and bustle of  
South Shields Market

- *"I paint my anger out"*
- *"If you're having a bad day people seem to know, they treat you with concern"*
- *"You learn a lot of tolerance and respect here"*
- *"Its not just 'getting your feelings out', it also helps you know yourself better"*
- *"I was frightened of other people but gradually, through the Studio, I learnt to trust them"*
- *"The Bible says 'Use your talents', but you don't know what you can do until you try"*
- *"There is a wealth of talent here"*
- *"I can discuss Art - I would never have thought I would"*

These are some of the things we said about  
the Studio. It has helped us all to recover



from illness. It has been very important to us but it is not the only help we have needed; one person for instance said they found a combination of making and finishing work in the Studio combined with counselling had been effective.

*Having your work or your experience recognised and valued by people outside is a terrific boost. One person said that when his work was praised by a stranger at an exhibition he, "Couldn't get a hat to fit us".*

Another was grateful when his psychiatrist wrote to him asking for help with a patient who wanted to paint. A psychiatrist in South Tyneside recently asked a member to talk about his experiences with some junior doctors. We are glad that our experience is being taken seriously.



**Sharon Fenwick**

My lino cut is a celebration of dance and fire



**Lisa Pullen**

I have been coming to this studio for 2 years. Its a really enjoyable place when you're feeling a bit down. I like painting in oils because they are very smooth and look nicer when dried

## **SOUTH TYNESIDE ARTS STUDIO** **INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS**

### **ABOUT THE STUDIO**

South Tyneside Arts Studio is a public arts studio open to anyone living in the Borough of South Tyneside. We are open from 10am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. The Tuesday session in the main studio is for women only, men can work in the basement studio.

The Studio offers a wide range of art and craft activities in a safe and supportive environment.

The Studio is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Our Board of Directors run the Studio and meet once a month.

### **HEBBURN**

We also have a satellite studio based at the Hedley Sunday school in Argyle Street Hebburn, sessions are run on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only, from 10am – 4pm.

### **STUDIO STAFF**

**Margaret Ferguson**, Project Director, is responsible overall for the project, alongside partnership working, development and fundraising.

**Anthea Milton**, Studio Manager, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the studio.

**John Stewart**, Studio Technician is responsible on a day-to-day basis for Tidiness and layout of the workshops satellite & annex as directed, to assist members with mounting, framing and canvas making.

### **ARTISTS**

The main workshop sessions are run by six artists. The artists who run sessions during the week are: -

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Dee Shaw</b> | Tuesday afternoons, Thursday afternoons and Friday afternoons |
|-----------------|---|

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Kirk Delstanche</b> | Monday mornings (Hebburn) Monday Afternoons and Tuesday Mornings (Basement) |
|------------------------|---|

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Paul Mulvihill</b> | Monday mornings and Thursday mornings |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Jenny Holm</b> | Monday afternoons (Hebburn) Tuesday mornings and Wednesday mornings |
|-------------------|---|

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Michael Mulvihill</b> | Wednesday afternoons and Friday afternoons (Hebburn) |
|--------------------------|--|

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lucy Broadhead</b> | Tuesday afternoons (basement) and Friday mornings (Hebburn) |
|-----------------------|---|



### ***Specialist sessions are run by:***

#### **South Tyneside Arts Studio**

|                    |               |        |           |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|
| Paul Mulvihill     | Digital Media | 2-5pm  | Monday    |
| Yuen Yee Liew-Main | Sculpture     | 10-1pm | Wednesday |
| Kirk Delsatnache   | Print making  | 2-5pm  | Wednesday |
| Paul Mulvihill     | Photography   | 2-5pm  | Thursday  |

#### ***Hebburn Satellite Studio***

|                     |               |        |          |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| Michael Mulvihill   | Drawing       | 10-1pm | Tuesday  |
| Yuen Yee Liew- Main | Sculpture     | 1-4pm  | Tuesday  |
| Dee Shaw            | Oil painting  | 10-1pm | Thursday |
| Lucy Broadhead      | Stained Glass | 1-4pm  | Thursday |

### **VOLUNTEERS**

The studio has a number of volunteers who are available to support members with their work. The studio also offers work experience placements.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

£15 per year general membership.

£3 per year for people on benefits.

**FREE** to priority members - people living with mental and emotional distress and people using mental health services.

Membership is renewable each February. Members receive a membership card and regular members newsletters. Once a member, you can attend the Studio as often as you like.

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

If you wish to become a member of South Tyneside Arts Studio, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Anthea. If you need help filling in the form please ask - we will be delighted to help.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Studio requires all members to sign our code of conduct. A copy is included in this pack. It basically means that all members agree to behave appropriately while using the Studio - for example - being under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs is not acceptable, nor is threatening or aggressive behavior or stealing.

The Studio reserves the right to refuse membership or terminate membership. Members do have a right of appeal to the Board of Directors if membership is terminated.

### **ART MATERIALS**

Art materials, tools etc... are available for members use. Studio materials are free to priority members, although some materials such as printing lino and photographic paper and film are charged at half price.

Basic paints and paper are free to general members and other materials are available at a small cost.

The Studio sells art materials at 15% off shop prices. See Anthea if you need anything. We can order materials specifically for members if we don't have them in stock.

### **EXHIBITIONS AND TRIPS**

The Studio has regular member's exhibitions in the gallery upstairs and other venues.

We hold trips throughout the summer, making sure they are as cheap as possible - if not free - as well as running specific, additional workshops and small projects.

So, come and join us!



**SOUTH TYNESIDE ARTS STUDIO**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**NAME.....**

**ADDRESS.....**

.....

.....

.....

**POSTCODE.....**

**TELEPHONE NAME**

.....

**DOCTOR'S NAME.....**

**HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE STUDIO?**

.....

**WHO WOULD YOU LIKE US TO CONTACT IF YOU BECOME ILL WHILE  
YOU ARE HERE (NEXT OF KIN)**

.....

**HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE STUDIO BEFORE?**

.....

**ARE YOU PAYING A MEMBERSHIP FEE?**

FREE to priority members – people living with mental and emotional distress  
and people using mental health services.

☐

£3 per year for people on benefits ☐

£15 per year general membership ☐

**PLEASE TICK BOX**

# **SOUTH TYNESIDE ARTS STUDIO - CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **WHY DO WE NEED A CODE OF CONDUCT?**

- The studio provides a safe environment for those who attend.
- Members have agreed that a standard of acceptable behaviour needs to be set up by all members and all members need to agree to stick by it.
- It is important that all members are treated with equal respect within the studio.
- It puts control and responsibility about acceptable behaviour back onto those people who are affected - the members as a whole.

## **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR:-**

1. Bringing alcohol and unprescribed or illegal drugs on to the premises; or being noticeably under their influence.
2. Attacking another person in the studio either physically or verbally.
3. Behaving in an aggressive or threatening manner. (This includes threats of violence and intimidation).
4. Sexual harassment (including unwanted touching and comments).
5. Theft from members, staff or the studios resources.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY:**

Everyone should be treated equally, irrespective of their gender, race, cultural, ethnic or national origins, colour, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, domestic circumstances, appearance, political beliefs, trade union activity, age, diet, disability, physical or learning difficulty, spent or non-relevant convictions, educational history.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

Employees, sub-contractors, volunteers and members have a duty to read and comply with the Health and Safety Policy displayed in the Studio.

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**CONFIDENTIALITY**

It is important to respect members privacy and to not repeat conversations or incidents which happen inside the studio to others unless you have permission from those involved.

**CONFLICTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS**

In a busy studio with lots of members it is inevitable that from time to time people will have disagreements. We would ask that respect is given to others views and others have the right to their own opinions. However the standards of acceptable behaviour apply.

**HOW TO ACT**

It is important that members as well as staff are expected to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the code of conduct is adhered to and challenges any behaviour that is contrary to its letter or its spirit.

**It is up to us all to make it work!**

If members have difficulty in talking to individuals or if the action is so serious as to warrant staff involvement members can contact a member of staff for support.

A serious breach of this conduct may result in an individual being asked to leave for a period of time.

Warnings will be given and recorded for less serious actions. Persistent disregard of this code of conduct may result in the member being asked to leave for a period of time.

Serious breach or persistent disregard of the code of conduct will be reported to the Board of Directors. Anyone to be excluded will be reported to the Board and has a right of appeal to the Board of Directors.

**I have read and will abide by the code of conduct**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name: (Please print)** .....

## ***How to get to South Tyneside Arts Studio...***

### ***By Metro***

Take the metro to South Shields, and leave the Metro Station from the Kepple Street entrance. You will see the bus station and over the road, the Post Office. If you come out onto the pedestrian shopping street – King Street – walk back through the metro to Kepple Street. Turn left and walk along the length of the Bus Station, and follow the road round to the right and up Fowler Street. At the top of Fowler Street, with the Town Hall opposite, turn left down Beach Road. You will pass a number of solicitors and accountants and we are the last but one building on the left before the mini-roundabout. Our main entrance is up the steps and the doors are painted with a mural. Press the buzzer to be let in.

### ***By Bus***

Get off the bus at the Town Hall stop. Walk round passed the front main entrance to the Town Hall and turn right down Beach Road. Cross over the road and we are the second to last building of the first terrace, just before the mini-roundabout.

### ***By Car from A19 (North or South)***

Follow signs to the Town Centre. There are loads of roundabouts but they are well sign-posted. You will be travelling on the A194, which turns into Western Approach. At a small roundabout with ATS Tyre garage on your right and Focus DIY opposite, turn right – still sign-posted Town Centre – up Crossgate. You will pass Safeway Offices on your right and Springs Gym on your left. The Town Hall is at the top of Crossgate. At the traffic lights, go into the left-hand lane to turn left down Beach Road. As you make the turn, go into the right-hand lane, which sweeps you down Beach Road\*. At the mini-roundabout, turn left, and then first left again down the back alley and you can park in the Studio carpark, which is first left, through the big wavy gates. Please park on the right hand side of the carpark as the left hand side belongs to the South Tyneside Council for Voluntary Service.

### ***By Car from Sunderland***

Follow the A1018 Sunderland Road, which turns into Shields Road at Cleadon. Straight on at the roundabouts, the road then changes into King George Road. It stays the A1018 all the way into South Shields and finally becomes Westoe Road. With the Town Hall on your right, at the traffic lights, get into the right hand lane. This sweeps you down Beach Road\*. At the mini-roundabout, turn left, then first left again down the back alley and you can park in the Studio carpark which is first left, through the big wavy gates. Please park on the right hand side of the carpark as the left hand side belongs to the South Tyneside Council for Voluntary Service.

\*If you don't get into the right hand lane don't worry! Go down Fowler Street and turn first right down the back alley. Drive to the end of the alley and in through the gates into the Studio carpark.



If you require any further information or would like to visit the studio

Please contact:

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